

leading the world in discovering and exploring new frontiers.

I will not support any future NASA budget request that does not have a robust human exploration program. It must be a program that inspires, yet is also a program grounded in what is possible and not wishful thinking.

If we no longer prioritize space exploration, we can be certain that others on this planet will. A number of the findings by the Augustine Commission would guarantee that other nations, such as Russia, China, and India, will be waving to us as they fly by the space station on their way to the Moon and other planets if we are not careful. We cannot cede our leadership in space, and we must have a viable human space exploration program.

As we are losing global market shares in most industries, we are still the world leader in human spaceflight. I will not support a NASA that squanders that lead, and I hope the Senate will not. Simply put, if that were to happen, I would not support a visionless NASA, and I do not believe the Congress would.

In conclusion, I thank again Senator MIKULSKI, the chairwoman of this committee, for her leadership on this bill. We have worked together on many issues throughout our years, both serving together in the House and the Senate, and this bill reflects our strong relationship. I ask my colleagues—as she will—to support this bill and to urge its swift passage this week.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to offer for the record, the Budget Committee's official scoring of H.R. 2847, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010.

The bill, as reported with an amendment by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, provides \$64.9 billion in discretionary budget authority for fiscal year 2010, which will result in new outlays of \$44.2 billion. When outlays from prior-year budget authority are taken into account, nonemergency discretionary outlays for the bill will total \$71.2 billion.

The bill includes \$126 million in budget authority designated as being for overseas deployments and other activities for national security programs at the Department of Justice. Pursuant to section 401(c)(4) of S. Con. Res. 13, the 2010 budget resolution, an adjustment to the 2010 discretionary spending limits and the Appropriations Committee's 302(a) allocation has been made for this amount in budget authority and for the outlays flowing therefrom.

The Senate-reported bill matches its Section 302(b) allocation for budget authority and for outlays.

The bill is not subject to any budget points of order.

I ask unanimous consent that the table displaying the Budget Committee scoring of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

H.R. 2847, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

[Spending comparisons—Senate-reported bill (in millions of dollars)]

| | Defense | General purpose | Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------|
| Senate-Reported Bill: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 4,589 | 60,337 | 64,926 |
| Outlays | 4,690 | 66,515 | 71,205 |
| Senate 302(b) Allocation: | | | |
| Budget Authority | | | 64,926 |
| Outlays | | | 71,205 |
| House-Passed Bill: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 4,603 | 59,810 | 64,413 |
| Outlays | 4,701 | 65,960 | 70,661 |
| President's Request: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 4,608 | 60,004 | 64,612 |
| Outlays | 4,705 | 66,477 | 71,182 |
| SENATE-REPORTED BILL COMPARED TO: | | | |
| Senate 302(b) allocation: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| House-Passed Bill: | | | |
| Budget Authority | -14 | 527 | 513 |
| Outlays | -11 | 555 | 544 |
| President's Request: | | | |
| Budget Authority | -19 | 333 | 314 |
| Outlays | -15 | 38 | 23 |

Note: Table does not include 2010 outlays stemming from emergency budget authority provided in the 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-32).

The Senate bill includes \$126 M in budget authority designated as being for overseas deployments and other activities at the Department of Justice.

HONORING NEAL BOORTZ

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a constituent from my home State of Georgia who is familiar to many of my colleagues, and that is radio talk show host Neal Boortz.

Next month, in November, after 40 years of airing his unique and often colorful opinions, skewering lawmakers and pending best-selling books, Neal Boortz will be inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame.

Neal has been an Atlanta institution since his first foray into talk radio in 1969 on WRNG Radio. Since 1993, he has been holding forth on the airways of WSB-AM 750, a member of the Cox Broadcasting Group. His ratings show that he strikes a chord with listeners. For 47 straight ratings periods, his show has finished in first place.

He has also struck a chord with Americans across the country, counting among the audience for his nationally syndicated show listeners from Maine to California.

Neal is a confirmed libertarian, dish-ing out his brand of, as he calls it, "the painful truth" to Republicans and Democrats alike. And I should know; he frequently dishes it out to me, too.

But Neal is more than a radio talker. In his life, he has been a military brat, whose dad was a marine pilot, an attorney, a department store clerk, an insurance salesman, a carpet buyer, a postal worker, a gubernatorial speechwriter, as well as a motel bookkeeper.

These experiences form more than an eclectic background. It is the foundation that gives Neal the ability to connect with a wide variety of listeners from all walks of life, and to voice what is on their minds. As Neal puts it: "Somebody's got to say it."

His Hall of Fame honor is the latest in a string of national successes, including writing the best-selling books, "The Fair Tax—The Truth" and

"Somebody's Gotta Say It," both of which are New York Times bestsellers.

I am pleased to have joined Neal over the years in his fair-tax efforts.

When he is not holding forth on the issues of the day or speaking to groups, Neal can be found in the skies or on a golf course. He is an avid pilot and, I might add, a very safe pilot, having had some experiences with Neal. Neal has been a very good friend of mine for many years.

Like most of us, he married way over his head. His lovely wife Donna is his rock.

Neal's selection to the National Radio Hall of Fame is overdue, and I am very happy that this honor has now come to him. With his induction into the National Radio Hall of Fame, Neal joins luminaries such as Bob Hope, Paul Harvey, and Dick Clark. This honor is well deserved.

Congratulations, Neal.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BATTEN DISEASE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I recently heard from the friends and family of a young boy in Illinois named Jasper Duinstra who was diagnosed earlier this year with late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis, often referred to as Batten disease.

Batten disease is a rare and devastating childhood disease, affecting between 2 and 4 of every 100,000 live births in the United States. Due to an enzyme deficiency, waste accumulates in the child's brain, causing cells to become dysfunctional and eventually die. This results in seizures, mental impairment and progressive loss of sight and motor skills. Sadly, there are no known treatments to halt or reverse the symptoms of Batten disease and the disease is fatal.

The physical, emotional, and financial toll of this disease is devastating. But Jaspers family and friends have rallied around him to create a sense of hope and have motivated many people in their community to team together in pursuit of a cure for this disease. There is a sense of urgency behind the need to increase funding for Batten and